



# BIOHACKING

16th January 2013

## PRESS RELEASE

### Biohacking: Do It Yourself!

**Biotechnology research is usually done in universities and industrial laboratories without public access. But biohackers and do-it-yourself biologists want to set it free. The biohacking movement argues that the tools of biotechnology should be available and affordable, through places such as hacker labs where anyone can come and experiment.**

From the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, Medical Museion, the University of Copenhagen's medical museum, will house an open biohacking laboratory, pieced together from recycled furniture, IKEA cabinets, and cheap "hacked" instruments made by do-it-yourself biologists from BiologiGaragen and Hackteria.

The do-it-yourself biologists working in Medical Museion's hacker-lab want to open doors and pass on their expertise. Museum visitors are invited to get a glimpse into the life of practical biotechnology.

Museum Director Thomas Söderqvist says: *"We are hacking the museum. Museums can learn a lot from hacker culture, for example, to build exhibitions and events on the user's initiative and with simple and available resources. A do-it-yourself mentality can breathe new life into the museum."*

BiologiGaragen in Copenhagen is part of a growing global movement that started about five years ago. Biohacking – like computer hacking in the 1970s and home DIY – is about innovation, creativity and a playful attitude toward technology. Dreaming big, but requiring little. Martin Malthe Borch from BiologiGaragen says: *"We are offering people the opportunity to gain first hand experience with biotechnology. With simple techniques and common kitchen equipment you can use biotechnology in your daily life, from molecular gastronomy to bioenergy."* The title of the exhibition is to be taken literally - Biohacking: Do It Yourself!

The lab installation will be open from January 25<sup>th</sup> during normal museum hours, Wednesday – Friday and Sunday between 12-4pm, and biohackers will be working in the lab on three open Sundays in February (the 10th, 17th and 24th). At an evening do-it-yourself workshop on March 14<sup>th</sup>, participants will be able to meet the biohackers, try simple "hacks" such as extracting their own DNA, and discuss Open Science and the visions and concerns surrounding it.

Finally, at a public forum on March 21<sup>st</sup>, guests are invited to discuss open biology with ethicists, legislators, sociologists and hackers. Participants include Professor Birger Lindberg Møller from the University's Centre for Synthetic Biology, who is looking forward to the debate: *"Biohackers, through their open sharing of knowledge and craft skills, have the potential to make biotech and synthetic biology accessible to far more people. This is extremely positive, as it is precisely in these technologies that many of the solutions to today's challenges lie."*



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**A video trailer is available here:**

<http://vimeo.com/57536108>

The exhibition is a collaboration between

The EU Project Studiolar

[www.studiolarproject.eu](http://www.studiolarproject.eu)

Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen

[www.museion.ku.dk](http://www.museion.ku.dk)

The hackerspace BiologiGaragen @ Labitat.dk

[www.biologigaragen.org](http://www.biologigaragen.org)

Center for Synthetic Biology, University of Copenhagen

[www.synbio.ku.dk](http://www.synbio.ku.dk)

The biohacking web platform Hackteria

[www.hackteria.org](http://www.hackteria.org)

**For more information:**

The official exhibition homepage

<http://medm.us/biohacking>

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